

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

612 Cotton Exchange Building Food Distribution Administration  
Phone Magnolia 2713

New Orleans, Louisiana.  
Tuesday, June 15, 1943.

TRUCK CROP NEWS FROM FIELD STATISTICIANS' REPORTS.  
Released June 7, 1943. - Washington, D. C.

**GENERAL:** Excessive moisture during much of May over most northern commercial truck crop areas delayed planting, prevented cultivation, and retarded growth of some crops. The season in these areas is considerably later than usual and acreages of some early - season crops may fall below expectations because of the inability of growers to plant at the proper time. Wherever possible, these acreages will be planted to later-maturing crops.

In southern and western early sections, which furnish the bulk of supplies for shipment during the spring months, conditions during the second half of May were favorable for the most part. The Florida season is rapidly drawing to a close.

Conditions in most Texas sections were favorable, and harvesting was done with little interruption. Rainfall near the end of May was beneficial to East Texas tomatoes and North Texas onions, although the opening of the harvesting season for these crops was delayed. In northern and western Arkansas, and in western Tennessee, the effects of heavy rains and floods continued to be felt throughout May. In other sections in these States rainfall was beneficial.

Unseasonable weather in Colorado continued through the third week in May, with temperatures considerable below normal. Weather during the last week in the month was more favorable, but more clear, warm days were needed for optimum growth of truck crops. The moisture outlook for late crops in the San Luis Valley is less promising than in other truck crop areas of the State.

**BEANS SNAP:** The Florida snap bean season is practically over. Only a few patches of late plantings remain.

Late planted beans in the Hammond, Louisiana area are being shipped in volume and this movement may continue until around June 10. These later beans are yielding fairly well whereas the yield of the earlier plantings was generally very low. Quality has been reduced by too much rain in the northern part of this area.

**CABBAGE:** Some Oregon cabbage is being marketed from the mid-Columbia area around the Dallas. In general the growing condition of early cabbage is not too good as weather conditions have been too cool and wet. Growers of late cabbage are trying to get fields and plants ready for transplanting, which will get under way in late June.

Cabbage shipments in Mississippi during the last week of May averaged about 30 cars a day, but movement is now about over. Movement of the Tennessee cabbage crop began about May 24. Some loss of cabbage was caused by heavy rains during the last half of May. However, yields on acreage left for harvest are reported about average. Peak movement should occur the week of June 10.

**CANTALOUPS:** In California, shipments are now being made out of the Imperial Valley, and should increase steadily and reach a peak during the next two weeks. Sizes are large and quality is exceptionally good. There will not be any cantaloups out of the San Joaquin Valley until the end of June. The bulk of the acreage planted in the Valley will be available for harvest after mid-July. Harvest at Phoenix, Ariz. is expected to get under way about June 21, with volume movement by June 28.

Most of the Texas early production will come from the Laredo irrigated district, where harvest has started. Dry-land districts of the early areas, have experienced unfavorable weather, mainly lack of moisture. Crops in the mid-season and late districts are in good condition and moisture is ample to practically assure fairly good yields.

**CELERY:** Shipments of celery from Florida are declining, and it is probably that the season will end about June 10-15. Oviedo, Weirsdale and Island Grove are the remaining sources of supply.

Growth of the early crop of Western Oregon celery is slow. Michigan's early celery crop has been held back by cool, wet weather. Paper covered fields are further advanced than unprotected crops. Harvest will start on a few fields in the Kalamazoo area soon after the middle of June. Grand Haven, Hudsonville and Muskegon should start around June 25. The movement will be very light until the second week in July. Floods have destroyed most of the early crop in the Inlay City area. A small acreage was also lost in the Muskegon area. The early crop represents a succession of plantings. Wet weather has held up the later plantings in most areas.

**EGGPLANT:** Loading of Florida eggplant are increasing slightly. The spring acreage is widely scattered over the central part of the State. Ft. Myers and the Lower East Coast are still shipping in a very light way from the old acreage. Eggplant is being offered in limited quantities at most of the Farmers' Markets.

**LETTUCE:** In Colorado, a few sales will be made in the Denver and Canon City areas during the first half of June but movement will not reach appreciable volume before July. Condition and quality are quite spotty. In the Denver area, stands have been thinned slightly by light hail and soil crusting. In view of the unfavorable weather which prevailed through the first three weeks of May, both quantity and quality of the early deal will depend largely upon weather conditions of the next ten days. The San Luis Valley acreage is in very good condition and will be on the market about July 10.

**ONIONS:** Harvest of the north Texas Onion crop was getting under way in all districts when the late May rains occurred. The early sections around Austin and Bartlett were through by the last of the month and harvest was well along in the Taylor district. Yields in these districts will average unusually low for the season. A number of fields in the area from Ferris to Farmersville were ready to be harvested and field crews had started pulling when the rains started; no damage is expected unless continuous wet weather prevails, but harvest will be delayed for a few days.

In California, onion harvest has started in most of the San Joaquin Valley onion areas. June shipments should be heavier than those now being made. The acreage, however, is limited. With considerable demand in Pacific Coast markets for these early onions, it is not expected that carlot loadings will reach a heavy volume.

The Indiana onion crop has been damaged considerably by wind and flood. A few fields have been an entire loss. In Michigan, wet weather, floods and wind have resulted in a heavy loss of onion acreage. The Inlay City, (Iapeer County) and Munith (Jackson County) areas suffered the greatest loss. Several hundred acres are a total loss, and spots in many fields have been damaged. The crop at Grant has suffered less damage than in other part of the State. Most of the Gunn Swamp acreage still looks promising despite considerable damage from water and wind. The Hudsonville, Decatur, Marshall, Eaton County, Stockbridge, and Ionia County sections have been damaged and are still wet but most of the acreage could be saved with favorable weather.

**EARLY IRISH POTATOES:** Harvest in Kern County, California, is at its peak. Shipments will continue heavy throughout the month of June. Some early fields in the Riverside District are also available for digging, and there will be a small June movement out of this area. However, the bulk of the Southern California potatoes will be harvested during July. In Texas, all early districts are nearly through harvesting and good progress was being made in central Texas districts. A good crop was in prospect in central Texas, and carlot movement from Buffalo (Leon County) was getting under way when field work was stopped the latter part of the month. With favorable harvesting weather this district may ship actively and harvest is expected to continue through most of June.

OVER



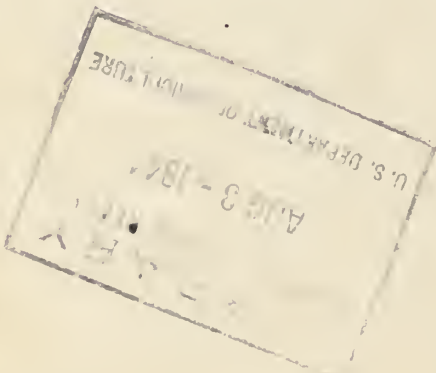
TOMATOES: Harvest in the California Imperial Valley will be very light during June. Harvest of the Texas Lower Valley crop was stopped the last few days in May by heavy rains that were Valley wide.

The Yolam district finally received much needed rains, but this crop is too far advanced to be helped materially.

Several tomato packing sheds in North Louisiana opened about June 1 and most are expected to be packing by June 7.

WATERMELONS: All Texas districts received good rains the latter part of May, and crops in the early districts where moisture has been deficient were materially improved. A few melons have been harvested in the earliest districts, but harvest will not get under way generally until about June 10-15. Mid - season and late crop prospects continue favorable. A fairly good sized acreage in Leon County promises production beginning the latter part of June and rail movement is expected to be active from Buffalo shipping point as cars are available. Good Yields are in prospect in the east Texas commercial areas and production is expected about the usual time - starting about July 1 to 10, varying according to districts.

In Alabama, watermelons are progressing nicely now. Movement from the small acreage in south Mobile County should begin during the third week in June. The acreage in other areas is also much lighter than usual but shipments are expected at about the usual time. In Georgia, watermelons received plenty of moisture in May. A few cars may be loaded in extreme South Georgia counties as early as June 15, with melons plentiful in this section about July 4,



Released June 15, 1943. 11:00 P.M. EHM/ac

United States Department of Agriculture  
Food Distribution Administration  
612 Cotton Exchange Building  
New Orleans, Louisiana.

Penalty for private use to avoid  
payment of postage \$ 300.00

Official Business